IAVDRS
IOWA VIOLENT DEATH REPORTING SYSTEM

✛ Collect

data on violent deaths from death certificates and reports from medical examiners and law enforcement.

✛ Disseminate

IAVDRS data to researchers and partners.

✛ Identify

ways to prevent future violent deaths.

Partnering Together

IDPH
Iowa Department
of Public Health

Protecting and Improving the Health of Iowans

http://www.idph.iowa.gov

THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
!PRC INJURY PREVENTION RESEARCH CENTER

http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/iprc

IAVDRS
IOWA VIOLENT DEATH REPORTING SYSTEM

**Office of Disability, Injury & Violence Prevention
Iowa Department of Public Health**

http://idph.iowa.gov/disability-injury-violence-prevention/violent-death-reporting

515.242.6514

Finding ways to prevent violent deaths in Iowa by understanding contributing circumstances.

IAVDRS
IOWA VIOLENT DEATH REPORTING SYSTEM

Iowa's Violent Death Reporting System

Iowa's Violent Death Reporting System (IAVDRS) is funded by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention to collect data on violent deaths for the National Violent Death Reporting System. Using a variety of source records, IAVDRS gathers information on cause of death and contributing circumstances, and enters it into a national database. Community partners and researchers can use the data to contribute to a better understanding of violent deaths and develop strategies to prevent them.

Iowa data collection started for deaths that occurred in calendar year 2015. In 2015, data was collected from the seven most populous counties (Black Hawk, Johnson, Linn, Polk, Pottawattamie, Scott and Woodbury). Statewide data collection began in calendar year 2016. The IDPH Office of Disability, Injury & Violence Prevention manages the program. Through a contract with the University of Iowa Injury Prevention Research Center, data is abstracted and uploaded to the web-based surveillance system. Other key partners on the project include the IDPH Bureau of Vital Statistics, Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner and the Iowa Department of Public Safety.

Defining Violent Death

A violent death is defined as "a death resulting from the intentional use of physical force or power (e.g., threats or intimidation) against oneself, another person, or against a group or community." This includes all:

- Homicides
- Suicides
- Deaths occurring when law enforcement exerts deadly force or is killed in the line of duty
- Unintentional firearm injury deaths (e.g., hunting-related, gun cleaning-related, children playing with guns, etc.)
- Deaths where the intent cannot be determined (undetermined deaths)
- Deaths resulting from terrorism

Data Sources

Information is collected from three required data sources:

- Death certificates (DC)
- Medical examiner (ME) reports
- Law enforcement (LE) reports

The Data Collected

The data that are abstracted include date, location and circumstances surrounding the death. Information is gathered on victims and suspects as available. All information submitted via the web-based system is de-identified. Cases involving more than one death (e.g., multiple homicides, homicide/suicide) are linked so circumstantial information can be analyzed.

Primary Activities of the IAVDRS

An advisory committee guides the project. There are five primary activities related to the grant:

1. Create and update a plan to implement NVDRS across jurisdictions and agencies.
2. Collect and abstract comprehensive data on violent deaths from DC, ME/ toxicology reports, and LE reports using CDC guidelines for the web-based data entry system.
3. Disseminate NVDRS data to the stakeholders, the public and the multi-state database maintained by CDC.
4. Explore innovative methods of collecting, reporting and sharing data that could lead to improved timeliness and greater utilization of data for prevention efforts.
5. Identify ways to prevent future deaths.